

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 12, 2004. Claims 1-73 were pending. The Office Action states that claims 1- 7, 9-47 and 49-72 have been allowed.

By this Amendment, claim 73 has been canceled, without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the claim in a continuation application. In addition, claims 8 and 48 have been amended to depend from allowed claims 1 and 40, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1-72 are now pending. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter and no new issues are presented by the Amendment. Therefore, entry of this Amendment and allowance of this application are requested.

Claim 73 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,121,170 to Bannai et al.

By this Amendment, claim 73 has been canceled.

Accordingly the rejection is now moot.

Claims 8 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,179,419 to Rasmussen et al. in view of Bannai and U.S. Patent No. 5,530,535 to Matsuoka.

By this Amendment, claims 8 and 48 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claims 1 and 40, respectively. Accordingly, amended claims 8 and 48 are patentable over the cited art of record for at least the same reasons that independent claims 1 and 40 are patentable.

Accordingly, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the reasons for allowance included in the Office Action, and

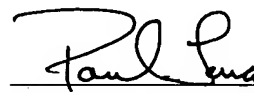
submits that the allowed claims recite subject matter which further supports patentability for reasons in addition to those identified in the Office Action.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this amendment, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Teng", is written over a horizontal line.

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